

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BONN 05028 281802Z

70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 DRC-01 /114 W

----- 126573

R 281713Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1392

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BONN 05028

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: BRANDT ON SPD'S PROBLEMS

SUMMARY: IN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH WESTFAELISCHE
RUNDschau REPORTED IN ALL MAJOR PAPERS MARCH 28,
BRANDT SAID COMBINATION OF ECONOMIC FACTORS,
PROPAGANDA OF OPPOSITION, AND "CERTAIN WEAKNESSES OF
THE "PARTY" HAVE HURT SPD IN RECENT STATE AND LOCAL
ELECTIONS. PROBLEM, HE SAID, IS TO CONVINCE VOTERS THAT
DIFFICULT TO IMPROVE SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

1. BRANDT SAID THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM IS THAT POSED
BY UNFAVORABLE ECONOMIC FACTORS WHICH FRG CAN INFLUENCE
ONLY SLIGHTLY BUT WHICH VOTERS NEVERTHELESS BLAME ON
THE GOVERNMENT. PEOPLE DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE ADVERSE
IMPACT THE OIL CRISIS AND THE SITUATION REGARDING OTHER
RAW MATERIALS HAVE HAD ON PRICES AND HOW VERY DIFFICULT
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BONN 05028 281802Z

IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE TO SLOW DOWN PRICE INCREASES.

THE OPPOSITION HAS TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF SITUATION WITH A MASSIVE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN DESIGNED TO BUILD UP FEELINGS OF UNCERTAINTY AMONG VOTERS. THE GOVERNMENT MUST MAKE GREATER EFFORTS TO EXPLAIN THE SITUATION AND TO MAKE CLEAR THAT "THE FRG CAME THROUGH THE WINTER WELL AND IS IN RELATIVELY BETTER SHAPE THAN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES."

2. BRANDT DID NOT ELABORATE ON THE SPD'S OWN "WEAKNESSES", OTHER THAN NOTING THE FAILINGS OF ITS PR EFFORTS. ASKED IF THE PARTY SHOULD DRAW A CLEARER BOUNDARY LINE VIS-A-VIS THE LEFT, BRANDT REPLIED THAT THE SPD MUST CONTINUE TO BE A PARTY OF THE "MIDDLE" BASED ON THE GODESBERG PROGRAM, AND THEN EMPHASIZED: "BUT IT MUST ALSO CONTINUE TO BE A LIVING PARTY. MANY SUFFER FROM SORT OF ANXIETY ABOUT THE LEFT, WHICH MAKES NO SENSE." ANYONE WHO QUESTIONS PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY "DOES NOT BELONG IN THE SPD", HE SAID, AND THERE MUST BE A SHARP DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE SPD AND COMMUNISM. HOWEVER, "OUR YOUNG PEOPLE" (JUSOS) MAY CALL THEMSELVES MARXISTS "BUT THEY DO NOT MEAN COMMUNISM".

3. COMMENT: A CHANCERY SOURCE REMARKED TO US EARLIER THIS WEEK THAT "THERE IS NO QUESTION" THAT THE JUSOS COST THE SPD VOTES IN THE RECENT ELECTIONS, AND DEBATE WITHIN THE PARTY ON WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT CONTINUES. THE NECESSITY FOR SOME LIMITATION ON INTERNAL PARTY DEBATE IS SET FORTH IN SPD EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER BRUNO FRIEDRICH'S PAPER (SEPT), AND PROBLEMS IN NRW BETWEEN KUEHN AND THE JUSOS (DUESSELDORF'S A-20) ARE FLARING UP AGAIN. MEANWHILE, AS INTERVIEW WITH WR SHOWS, BRANDT CONTINUES TO ADHERE TO VIEW THAT PARTY SHOULD EDUCATE JUSOS TO SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY--THE TOLERANT ATTITUDE WHICH HAS GIVEN JUSOS ROOM TO MANEUVER AND ALARMED MODERATE OPINION BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE OF SPD.
HILLENBRAND

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PARTY STRENGTH, ELECTION RESULTS, PARTY LINE, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BONN05028
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740068-0599
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974039/aaaaahsw.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <30 JUL 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRANDT ON SPD'S PROBLEMS SUMMARY: IN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH WESTFAELISCHE
TAGS: PINT, GE, SPD, JUSOS, (BRANDT, WILLY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005